

Brief Notes

The greatest need of the world is to be made conscious of its greatest need.

The peace of God is a plant so sensitive that to touch it with the finger of selfishness will cause it to wither immediately.

They quickly lose the fellowship of God and the comfort of the Holy Ghost who do not prize it above all else. Indifference is the death of love.

If some well seeming church people should cultivate their corn as they do their souls, they wouldn't make enough to feed a sickly chicken.

The fruit of faith is love; of love obedience; of obedience character; of character power. He who travels this road will find it widening into all usefulness, and joy and glory and honor and immortality.

After all danger had passed, the fear of hydrophobia drove a man mad. He would not believe the doctors, but brooded over his condition until he induced insanity. He is a type of those unbelievers who refuse to credit the glorious news that "the blood of Jesus Christ his Son cleanseth us from all sin," and in their unbelief they perish.

There is a young man in Columbus, Ohio, eighteen years old, who is nevertheless an infant in body and mind. Such a phenomenon is unusual in nature, but in the church it is quite common, so much so in fact that it excites no surprise, and little comment. Our spiritual infants are numerous and often troublesome.

Rev. Dr. Slicer of New York advised his people to play golf Sunday afternoons, provided they had gone to church in the morning. He preached a sermon on "summer religion," and closed his church for the season. If his religion is as cold in the winter as it is loose in the summer, explorers might go to his church to find the north pole.

A fifteen year old boy in Philadelphia strangled himself. It was discovered that he had been reading cheap and sensational literature. It is not hard to find in this tragical incident the logical relation between cause and effect, and parents, teachers and preachers should take it to heart that literary poison is destroying the bright young spirits all around them.

The Pope recently created twelve new Cardinals. On June 22, he gave them their hats, and also performed the ceremony of opening and shutting their mouths. One would imagine that they would be able to open and shut their own mouths without assistance, but we have seen people who apparently didn't know when or how to do either.

A graphophone was recently used in a San Francisco court as a witness in a murder case. If it has come to pass that even in a human court an inanimate object is made to bear verbal witness against the guilty, how may any one hope to hide his guilt in God's court at the last day? It may be that the very rocks around us, the trees, the skies, the winds, and all things with which we have come in contact, will bear in large and legible characters the secret history of our lives.

Fashionable London held a bazaar not long since for the benefit of a hospital, at which \$85,000 was realized, mostly from the sale of drinks. There would appear to be a shrewd wisdom upon the part of such people to provide hospitals against the day when their drunkenness and gluttony will inevitably bring them to the need of one. What a shameful exhibition of themselves the very rich often make before men and angels.

At the Peace Congress it is now stated that Germany will agree to optional arbitration, but will not agree to stop the increase of armaments. So it appears that they are to go on building up great armies and navies, and crushing the poor with taxes. As long as this lasts, what relief to the burden bearers will come from an arbitration agreement which binds nobody? Satan has no idea of dividing his kingdom against itself.

A girl walks out of a window, and to her death, while asleep. Thus she became a type of the many thousands who while spiritually asleep walk deliberately to their death. "Awake thou that sleepest, and arise from the dead, and Christ will give thee light."

After twenty-eight years in miserable hiding, a murderer is finally discovered and brought to justice. "Be sure your sin will find you out." And this is just as true of little sins as big ones. Sin in your heart is like an enemy in your house, or a traitor in your camp.

A big bear in St. Petersburg recently killed his tamer. There are things in the moral and spiritual world, vices, passions, habits, which men have in vain tried to tame. In the end they destroyed their tamers, and this is always the alternative with sin: Better kill it. It can never be tamed.

A very successful gospel tent meeting is in progress in New York. Ministers of all churches have joined in the effort, and Christian business men frequently speak in the meetings. It looks like a really sincere and earnest endeavor to do the Lord's work outside of conventional lines, and this is to our thinking the most hopeful of all gospel methods. The gospel must be carried to the masses: They will not come to the gospel.

Captain Crozer, our military delegate to the Peace Congress, voted in sub committee against any limitation being put on the invention and utilization of new explosives. The reason given is that for sometime our government has been experimenting with high explosives to be used against savage people in rebellion. In their African wars the British use Luddite, an explosive which kills everything within two hundred feet of a bursting shell. Isn't this a pretty tough cud for a fighting Christian to chew?

The Japanese custom of launching a ship by releasing two white doves ought to teach our boasted Christian civilization a lesson in poetic ethics. We launch our ships by breaking bottles of champagne over the bows, and baptizing the noble vessel with vulgar liquor. But then what better could you expect of a civilization which tolerates and condones the saloon?

All the traction companies of New York have united under one management, and with enormous capitalization. These combinations are for profit, and appear to be easily made. But a combination between the churches for the salvation of the world appears to be impossible. All of them work more or less on independent lines, and frequently with a vulgar competition between themselves. It still holds good that the children of this world are wiser in their generation than the children of light.

An Italian immigrant was separated from a portion of his family in New York, three of his children being sent back to Europe by the immigration authorities because they had contagious sore eyes. There are thousands of households where the children are suffered to contract moral and spiritual diseases which will turn them back from the gate of heaven. What a heavy responsibility rests upon parents, teachers and pastors. Do thy work faithfully and well, lest thou have grief and not joy at the threshold of the better world.

The New York Central R. R. Company has leased the Boston and Albany road for a period of 999 years. This company must have very little faith in the near coming of Christ or expect to do business after the millennium has ushered in.

The Czar seems to have very little faith in the success of the Peace Conference at the Hague. It is reported that a twenty million dollar order for ordnance will be placed here by Russia. On this *The Outlook* comments as follows: "It is one of the ironies of history that coincidentally with her calling the nations of the world to a disarmament conference, Russia should be allotting no less than eighty million dollars for new field artillery and ammunition."

This is very nearly as clear as mud, and its chief value consists in its illuminating power to the average mind, the millions to whom the subtle intricacies of philosophy are as incomprehensible as the politics of the moon. As a balm for wounded hearts (and there are so many wounded and broken hearts) it also possesses remarkable potency, which cannot fail to bring a large and abiding consolation. It moreover helps to solve all those perplexing questions of daily and personal providence, making us contented with our sorrowful lot, because, simply, that whatever we are, and however much we suffer adversities, the fact that we are a part of this universal organism has only to be recognized by us, and, presto, all perplexities cease, and all our troubles are dissipated. There appears to be no room in this theology for the doctrine of "Our Father which art in heaven," or of the Savior who died for us. These fictions are quite unnecessary to a scheme of salvation based upon the old pantheism that God is merely the informing spirit of the universe, its energy, its motion, its law, "the spirit which animates the whole."

And the theology of regeneration, and faith, and love, and resurrection, and glory, is quite displaced by the "light of history and the theory of evolution," upon which the Journal based its scheme of religion. The Bible doesn't appear to be in it at all. It is merely an elaboration of the Christian Science balderdash, eliminating the personal God and the personal Savior, and the personal element in human salvation. The everlasting effort to find a theory of religion which will suit the atheist and the worldling and the lover of pleasure, and the idiots, is an everlasting weariness. It amounts to nothing when it is found, being destitute of truth and destitute of power. We believe more and more in the old, uncompromising religion of faith in a personal God and a personal Savior, coupled with holiness of life, blossoming into "the peace of God which passeth all understanding," and issuing finally in the glorious resurrection, "the manifestation of the sons of God," heavenly exaltation and eternal life. By the side of this sublime old religion of the old Bible, all the theories, and philosophies, and evolutions of human invention are but the infinite drivel of pitiful invention.

Greater Than Knowledge

Knowledge is not religion. The pulpit, if it has more religion than the pews, has it, not because it knows more of the Bible, or of exegesis or homiletics, but because it stands for a life of unselfish devotion. Many a minister will testify that he has learned more of religion from some humble member of his congregation than from all the books of the theological seminary. The disciples were not chosen from the sanhedrin—*S. S. Times*.